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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2006, 3:00pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Attorney General Bruning Announces Court Order Against Consumer's Choice Foods

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Consumer's Choice Foods (CCF) has been ordered to pay \$103,208 in restitution to 36 consumers and \$40,000 in fines to the State of Nebraska for fraudulent and deceptive business practices. CCF is an in-home food service business formerly operated in Omaha.

"Consumer's Choice Foods duped Nebraska customers, and the court found in the State's favor in every component of this case," Bruning said. "Hopefully, this will send a message to other companies that if they want to play fast and loose with the rules, they're going to pay a heavy price."

From 1995 until 2002, CCF promised grocery delivery services and benefits to customers who signed membership contracts, often under deceptive and unfair conditions to consumers. In 26 cases, CCF customers signed a membership contract based upon misrepresentations by CCF that consumers would receive a "free freezer". Customers later discovered that the contract they signed actually obligated them to buy the freezer for well-over fair market value. CCF also promised customers they would save time and money because the company bought food in bulk, but a former CCF employee testified to shopping for dry goods at local grocery retail stores. One woman was urged by CCF to sign her husband's name to a contract, and another consumer's signature was forged to a contract.

The order requires that CCF, whose accounts were owned and financed by Jayco Acceptance Corporation (Jayco) in Temple City, Calif., pay a total of \$103,208.21 in restitution. From this amount, the Court ordered Jayco to pay \$96,308 to consumers after finding that Jayco's collection tactics were "belittling, demeaning, and bullying" towards consumers. The Court also fined CCF and its owners, Chris Johnson, Kim Johnson, and Jason Johnson, \$10,000 each in civil penalties and held Jayco liable for CCF's fine. The Court granted injunctive relief by permanently barring the Johnsons from operating this type of business again in the state of Nebraska, rescinding the contracts, and requiring Jayco to repair the credit for those 36 consumers whose credit was damaged by Jayco's debt collection practices.

Assistant Attorneys General Jeff Gaertig and Kimberly Taylor-Riley tried the case. Judge Steven D. Burns issued the order yesterday in Lancaster County District Court, where the case was tried and heard.

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An audio clip is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2006, 4:30pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Provides \$50,000 for Environmental Education to Groundwater Foundation

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning presented \$50,000 for environmental education efforts to the Groundwater Foundation today in Lincoln.

The money was made available through the Attorney General's Environmental Court Ordered Settlement Fund. The fund is comprised of voluntary payments collected in court-approved settlements from entities that have violated state and federal environmental regulations.

"The Groundwater Foundation is nationally recognized for educating Nebraskans, young and old, on the importance of clean water resources," Bruning said. "Working to stop environmental problems before they start is an investment in the health and well-being of our children."

The Groundwater Foundation currently provide numerous environmental education programs, including: Hydro Heroes, in which youth tour water sites such as the drinking water plant in Seward and Schramm Aquarium; water protection seminars encouraging proper storage and disposal practices for pharmaceutical and personal care products; and Pathogen Contamination Prevention Workshops for water system managers not associated with a community.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2006, 1:30pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Grand Jury Will Not Indict Sheriff Deputy in Falls City Shooting Death

(Lincoln, NE) A grand jury today decided not to indict a Richardson County sheriff deputy for the Aug. 13 shooting death of Ann Marx of Falls City.

"We trust the process and believe the grand jury was in the best position to make a decision on this case," Attorney General Bruning said. "We continue to send our condolences to the victim's family."

Marx, 52, was shot by Deputy Sheriff Todd Landis, 42, outside an assisted living residence in Falls City during an investigation into the distribution of a controlled substance.

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A copy of the grand jury's no true bill is attached, and an audio clip is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2006, 10:00am CST

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Attorney General Bruning Hosts SAFE Program in Gothenburg

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced his office will host a Senior Anti-Fraud Education (SAFE) presentation in Gothenburg, Neb.

The SAFE presentation educates seniors about scams and illegal business practices that target them. It also offers tips to help them avoid becoming victims of fraud.

“Unfortunately, seniors are often targeted by scam artist because they’ve worked hard and saved money all their lives,” Bruning said. “Educating seniors and their loved ones is our first line of defense in preventing fraud.”

The presentation will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 13, 2006, at the Gothenburg Senior Center, 410 20th Street, in Gothenburg. Josie Rodriguez, Senior Outreach Coordinator for the Nebraska Attorney General, will make the presentation.

Out of 464 senior complaints filed with the Attorney General’s Office in 2005, the top three were false lotteries, sweepstakes and telemarketing campaigns.

For more information about the presentation or how to protect yourself or someone you know from senior fraud, call the Attorney General’s Senior Outreach Hotline at (888) 287-0778.

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